

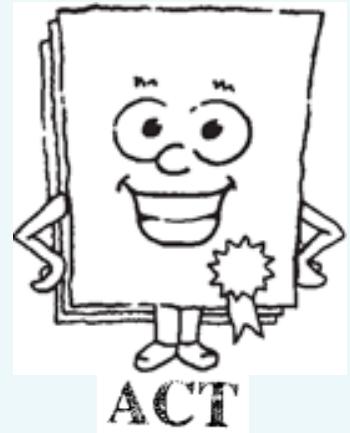
# Governor's Timeline – 2026 Regular Session



## Important Timelines (Final Step for a Bill to Become a Law)

If a bill successfully passes through both chambers of the Legislature, it needs to be presented to the Governor.\*

The procedure for enactment, which is defined in [Article III, Section 16](#) of the Hawai'i State Constitution, varies depending on when the bill is delivered to the Governor and the Governor's subsequent action or inaction in considering the bill. (*In computing the number of days designated below, the following days are excluded: Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and any days in which the Legislature is in recess prior to its adjournment.*) The following information is based on adjournment *sine die* occurring on **May 8, 2026**.



- **If the bill is sent to the Governor on or before April 21, 2026** (10 or more days before adjournment of the Legislature *sine die*), then...
  - 1) If the Governor signs the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law and is given an act number.
  - 2) If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature and is given an act number.
  - 3) If the Governor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill does not become law unless the Legislature reconsiders the bill before adjournment *sine die* and overrides the veto by a 2/3 vote in each chamber.
- **If the bill is sent to the Governor after April 21, 2026** (less than 10 days prior to adjournment *sine die*), then...
  - 1) If the Governor signs the bill by **July 15, 2026** (the 45<sup>th</sup> day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law and is given an act number.
  - 2) If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill by **July 15, 2026** (the 45<sup>th</sup> day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature and is given an act number.
  - 3) If the Governor intends to veto the bill, the Governor must inform the Legislature by **June 30, 2026** (the 35<sup>th</sup> day after adjournment *sine die*) and deliver the veto by **July 15, 2026** (the 45<sup>th</sup> day after adjournment *sine die*). If the bill is vetoed, it will not become law unless the Legislature successfully overrides the veto in special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber.\*\* The Legislature must convene in special session at or before noon on **July 15, 2026**, to override the Governor's veto.

Note: The date that a bill goes into effect as law can be found in its last section.

- Unless it proposes a constitutional amendment, in which case it gets put on the ballot for the electorate to decide its fate.
- The legislature could also amend a bill to answer the governor's objections. For it to become law, a majority of the members in each chamber would be required to vote in favor of the amended bill, and the governor would then have 10 days to sign it.